

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Santa Ana Region

**RESOLUTION NO. R8-2005-0063**

Resolution Approving the Surface Water and Groundwater Monitoring Program Proposals as Required in the Total Dissolved Solids and Nitrogen Management Plan Specified in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin

**WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (hereinafter Regional Board), finds that:**

1. An updated Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan) was adopted by the Regional Board on March 11, 1994, approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on July 21, 1994, and approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on January 24, 1995.
2. Amendments to the Basin Plan to incorporate a revised Total Dissolved Solids and Nitrogen Management Plan into the 1995 Basin Plan were approved by the Regional Board on January 22, 2004, by the State Water Resources Control Board on October 1, 2004 and by the Office of Administrative Law on December 23, 2004. The surface water components of the amendments are awaiting approval by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is neither appropriate nor necessary to await EPA approval to consider approval, and thereby trigger implementation, of monitoring programs designed to assess water quality conditions in the Region.
3. The Total Dissolved Solids and Nitrogen Management Plan addresses total dissolved solids (TDS) and nitrogen in both surface waters and groundwaters throughout the Santa Ana River basin.
4. The Total Dissolved Solids and Nitrogen Management Plan (Section V. Salt Management Plan – Monitoring Program Requirements, A.) requires specified affected water supply and wastewater agencies (hereinafter, Task Force) to submit by March 23, 2005 a proposed surface water monitoring program for Regional Board approval. The Plan requires that the Task Force implement the program upon Regional Board approval.
5. The Total Dissolved Solids and Nitrogen Management Plan (Section V. Salt Management Plan – Monitoring Program Requirements, B.) requires the Task Force to submit by June 23, 2005 a proposed groundwater monitoring program for Regional Board approval. The Plan requires that the Task Force implement the program within 30 days of Regional Board approval.
6. Section V. Salt Management Plan – Monitoring Requirements identifies the data collection and analytical needs that must be addressed by the proposed ground and surface water monitoring programs. These include the determination of Santa Ana River Reach 2, 4 and 5 water quality and current ambient groundwater quality, and confirmation of the 50% nitrogen loss coefficient specified for discharges to the Santa Ana River, Reach 3. The Plan also specifies dates for reporting the results of the monitoring programs.

7. In compliance with these Basin Plan Total Dissolved Solids and Nitrogen Management Plan requirements, in a report dated February, 2004, the Task Force submitted for Regional Board review and approval a proposed groundwater monitoring program. On June 3, 2004, and in a July 2004 addendum to the June 3, 2004 submittal, the Task Force submitted a proposed plan for the confirmation of the 50% nitrogen loss coefficient for the Santa Ana River, Reach 3. In a letter dated January 28, 2005, the Task Force submitted for Regional Board review and approval a proposed surface water monitoring program.
8. The Task Force is implementing the proposed surface and ground water monitoring programs and expects to comply with the reporting dates identified in the Basin Plan (Salt Management Plan – Monitoring Program Requirements).
9. The Regional Board has reviewed the proposed monitoring programs and finds that they comply with the Salt Management Plan – Monitoring Program Requirements specified in the Basin Plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The Regional Board approves the surface water monitoring program, groundwater monitoring program, and the nitrogen loss monitoring program submitted by the Task Force in February 2004, June 3, 2004, July 2004 and January 28, 2005..

I, Gerard J. Thibeault, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, on April 15, 2005.

  
Gerard J. Thibeault  
Executive Officer

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Santa Ana Region**

**April 15, 2005**

**Item: 5**

**Subject: Consideration of Approval of the Surface Water and Groundwater Monitoring Programs Submitted in Compliance with the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and Nitrogen Management Plan Specified in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin – Resolution No. R8-2005-0063**

**DISCUSSION**

On January 22, 2004, the Regional Board adopted Resolution No. R8-2004-0001, amending the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan) to incorporate a revised Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and Nitrogen Management Plan. The revised Total Dissolved Solids and Nitrogen Management Plan addresses total dissolved solids (TDS) and nitrogen in both surface waters and groundwaters throughout the Santa Ana River basin.

The TDS and Nitrogen Management Plan requires the TDS and Nitrogen Task Force (specified water supply and wastewater agencies) to submit proposed plans for surface and groundwater monitoring throughout the Santa Ana River basin. The purpose of the surface water monitoring program is to determine compliance with TDS and nitrogen Basin Plan objectives for the Santa Ana River and tributaries of the Santa Ana River. Data collected pursuant to the groundwater monitoring program will be used to determine ambient TDS and nitrate nitrogen water quality to evaluate compliance with Basin Plan TDS and nitrate nitrogen objectives, and to update assimilative capacity findings for each management zone. The groundwater monitoring programs, and to some extent, the surface water monitoring program, will be used to confirm the 50% nitrogen loss coefficient specified in the Basin Plan for the Santa Ana River, Reach 3.

In compliance with these Total Dissolved Solids and Nitrogen Management Plan requirements, in a report dated February, 2004, the Task Force submitted for Regional Board review and approval a proposed groundwater monitoring program. On June 3, 2004, and in a July 2004 addendum to the June 3, 2004 submittal, the Task Force submitted a proposed plan for the confirmation of the 50% nitrogen loss coefficient for the Santa Ana River, Reach 3. In a letter dated January 28, 2005, the Task Force submitted for Regional Board review and approval a proposed surface water monitoring program. These proposed monitoring programs are attached to Resolution No. R8-2005-0063. To a large degree, the proposed programs rely on monitoring efforts already established and underway. Staff has reviewed the proposed monitoring programs and finds that they satisfy the TDS and Nitrogen Management Plan Monitoring Program requirements.

The TDS and Nitrogen Management Plan also specifies dates for reporting the results of these monitoring programs by the Task Force. An annual report of the surface water quality is to be submitted by April 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. The determination of current ambient groundwater quality throughout the watershed must be reported by July 1, 2005, and, at a minimum, every three years thereafter. The Task Force expects to comply with these reporting requirements.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt Resolution No. R8-2005-0063, approving the Surface Water and Groundwater Monitoring Programs shown in the attachment to the Resolution.